



Renton Police Department

Business Watch News

July 2007

Women's Personal Safety Class



The Renton Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit is offering a FREE Personal Safety for Women class on the evening of August 15. The class is appropriate for women ages 14 and older and designed to teach crime prevention techniques. The focus will be on awareness and other simple concepts that will help women reduce their likelihood of being victimized. This is not a self-defense course. Some of the topics that will be covered include:

- How to prevent becoming the victim of assault or robbery
- How to handle "road rage" and "set up" accidents
- Use of force and your rights within the law
- Discussion of weapons for personal security, pros and cons
- How to decrease your odds of becoming a victim while at home

A criminal background check will be conducted on all applicants. Criminal history or adverse police contacts may preclude acceptance into the class. The class will be held from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Prior classes have filled up very quickly, so apply soon! Applications can be downloaded from the City website at www.ci.renton.wa.us, or call the Crime Prevention Unit at 425-430-7520 or 425-430-7521 to have one mailed to you.

Crime Resistant Multi-Housing Program

The next 12-hour Residential Rental Property Management Training class will be conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 21 and 22. This intensive class covers topics such as: Preparing the Property, Applicant Screening, Rental Agreements, Working With the Police, Promoting Community, Warning Signs of Drug and Gang Activity, If you Discover a Clandestine Lab, Crisis Resolution (Eviction), The Section 8 Program, Registered Sex Offenders and Domestic Violence on Rental Property.

Who should attend? Apartment managers, leasing agents, maintenance staff, management company personnel, owners of rental properties, real estate agents and brokers working with rentals, and anyone interested in managing or owning rental property.



The cost of the class is \$45 for registrations prior to August 10, and \$55 for registration on or after August 10. Real estate agents can receive 12 clock hours towards annual requirements. This class is the first part of a three-level Rental Property Certification course. Properties and managers who pass all three levels of the program are eligible to be endorsed to the public by the Renton Police Department. The class will be held at Highline Community College. To register, contact Highline Community College, 206-870-3785. The class includes a Crime Free Multi-Housing Manual, useful management information, guest speakers who are experts in their field, coffee and snacks during breaks, and lunch on Tuesday.

Crimes Occurring on Business Property For the Months of May and June, 2007

COMMERCIAL ROBBERY**LOSS**

1600 block NE 30th St 12:56 a.m.	The suspect entered the store wearing a bandana over his face, pointed a gun at the employee, and demanded money. The employee gave him the money and the suspect fled. Officers checked the area for the suspect with negative results. The store owner stated the same suspect has robbed the business 5-6 times in the past. <i>Crime Prevention Suggestions: Keep no more than \$50 in the cash register at all times, and post signs stating "no more than \$50 in the register." Contact the Crime Prevention Unit to conduct a security survey at your business and make recommendations for reducing crime.</i>	\$125
1300 block N 30th St 3:52 a.m.	The suspect entered the store wearing a white cloth over his face. He told the clerk he had the count of three to give him all the money. The clerk handed over the cash and the suspect fled. The suspect never implied a weapon but kept his hands in his coat pockets where a weapon may have been concealed. Officers and a police K9 searched for the suspect with negative results. <i>Crime Prevention Suggestions: Install a panic alarm or "till tap" alarm so that police can be immediately notified of a robbery.</i>	\$50
100 block SW 7th St 11:29 p.m.	Officers responded to an armed robbery at a restaurant. The business had closed two hours prior, and the suspects entered through a door left open so employees can take garbage outside. The suspects pointed guns at the employees and ordered them to the floor. One of the suspects immediately walked over to where the business phone is hidden and threw it on the floor, breaking it. Both gunmen identified the manager and ordered him to the office to open the safe. The suspects fled, and police officers and a police K9 were unable to locate them. It appears the suspects had information about the business, as they timed their entry through a propped-open door, knew where to find the hidden phone and broke it to prevent calling 9-1-1, and knew exactly which of the six employees would know the combination to the safe. <i>Crime Prevention Suggestions: Unattended doors should not be left unsecured. Install a double-lock safe and ensure that both keys (or combinations) are not on the premises except when removing currency to make a deposit.</i>	\$3,804
300 block Burnett Ave S 11:09 a.m.	The suspect handed the employee a note indicating guns and demanding cash. The employee started to walk away from the suspect, who told her not to move. The employee ignored the suspect and told her co-workers to get down. They all got onto the ground. When the employee got up a few seconds later, the suspect was gone. <i>Crime Prevention Suggestions: Safety is paramount. No amount of money or property is worth losing life or limb.</i>	\$0

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY**LOSS**

4600 block NE 4th St	A neighboring business called 9-1-1 to report a broken glass window. Suspect/s had broken a hole in a business window large enough to reach through, and removed a computer monitor from a desk. Entry to the business was not gained, and nothing else was reported missing. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: Items of value should be kept out of reach of windows that could be broken or left unlocked.</i>	\$250
200 block SW 43rd St	Suspect/s gained entry to the business by prying the front door with a crowbar or other pry tool. Once inside, the suspect/s pried open the cash register and removed the cash. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: Install a latch guard on the door exterior to protect the lock from being pried. Don't leave cash in the register at night, and leave as little cash as possible on the premises when the business is unoccupied. At the close of business empty the cash register drawer, remove it from the cash register, and leave it upside down on the counter to indicate to potential criminals that there is no cash in the till.</i>	\$250
200 block S 3rd St	A neighbor reported hearing suspicious sounds from the business. Officers observed a broken glass door and pry marks around the lock. The only thing missing from the business was a Palm Pilot. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: Install a latch guard over the lock to protect it. An application of Security Film to the windows will make it much more difficult to gain illegal entry by breaking a window.</i>	\$150

Crimes Occurring on Business Property For the Months of May and June, 2007 (continued)

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY, continued

LOSS

200 block Main Ave S	Officers responded to an alarm. When they arrived the business owner was pulling up and the business front door was open. Nothing appeared to be missing from the business. The owner discovered ceiling tiles in the restroom had been moved and damaged. He was certain the tiles had not been moved when he closed the business, because earlier in the evening he had noticed one of the tiles moved and looked around in the ceiling and did not see anyone. It appears that someone climbed into the ceiling area of the business and then waited until the business was empty to come down. The front door had been unlocked from the inside and there were no signs of forced entry to the building. The business alarm is audible and appeared to scare the suspect/s away. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: Check all storage areas, bathrooms, and other areas where someone could be hiding prior to leaving and locking the business.</i>	\$0
3400 block Lind Ave SW	A number of tools, including a 500 lb. generator, were stolen from the business. It appears the suspect/s used a forklift belonging to the business to lift the generator over the fence. There was no damage to the fence or gates. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: All tools and equipment should be secured in locked containers during the night. Remove keys from forklifts and similar equipment to reduce the risk of theft of equipment and to prevent criminals from using your tools to commit their crimes.</i>	\$4,949
200 block S 4th Pl	Officers responded to an audible alarm with an interior door trip. Upon arrival they checked all of the doors, all were locked. The business owner arrived and officers searched the building. In a storage room there was a hole in the wall where a window should have been, and a plastic crate under the opening. The owner stated there had been an air conditioning unit in the window, and that the alarm would have sounded if the storage room door were opened. It appeared that suspect/s concealed themselves in the storage room and waited for the business to close. When the suspect/s tried to enter the business from the storage room, the alarm sounded and the suspect/s fled. Nothing appeared to be missing from the business. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: Check all storage areas, bathrooms, and other areas where someone could be concealed prior to leaving the business.</i>	\$0
900 block Houser Wy N	Suspect/s stole an unknown amount of copper piping and aluminum scrap from the business lot. Entry was gained by removing the bolts holding the fence to a post and pulling back the section of fence. Nothing else was reported missing or damaged. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: Bolts that could be removed to gain entry should be stripped or welded in place. Items of value (such as metals) should be locked up when not in immediate use.</i>	\$3,000
700 block Rainier Ave S	A janitor reported a suspicious subject leaving the building. A review of the security camera film shows a former employee entering the building through a door that is sometimes left unlocked by the janitors. The suspect turned off the lights and used a flashlight to rummage through a cabinet that usually holds petty cash (there was no cash in it at the time). <i>Crime Prevention Tip: Unattended doors should remain locked.</i>	\$0

Auto Thefts: There were 55 cars reported stolen in Renton during the month of May 2007.

There were 83 cars reported stolen in Renton during the month of June, 2007.

Auto Recoveries: Renton Police recovered 16 vehicles that were stolen outside the City during May 2007.

Renton Police recovered 25 vehicles that were stolen outside the City during June 2007.

OTHER CRIMES OF INTEREST OCCURRING ON BUSINESS PROPERTY

4300 block NE 4th St	Officers were dispatched to an assault in progress. An employee, who had earlier refused to sell beer to an individual who was intoxicated and with two minors, had been punched in the head. The employee said he went outside to smoke and while outside a vehicle pulled up. The subject who had been refused beer got out of the car, approached him, and punched him in the head. Two more subjects jumped out of the car and restrained the suspect, then all three got into the car and left.
100 block Rainier Ave S	Suspect attempted to pay for purchase with a counterfeit \$50 bill. Signs that the bill was counterfeit included the thickness of the bill, discoloration on one side, and the "I" in "In God We Trust" was of a different font than the rest of the sentence. The hologram next to the president's face was not present. The employee advised the suspect that he would have to pay with something else. The suspect paid with different currency and asked for the \$50 bill back. The business retained the bill and called police. The suspect left in a vehicle and did not return.

RENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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2nd Annual Downtown Renton Art and Antique Walk Saturday, August 25

Renton will be hosting their **2nd Annual Art and Antique Walk** on Saturday, August 25, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., presented by Arts Unlimited. Original works by Mark Tobey, Morris Graves, Paul Horiuchi, Kenneth Callahan, Helmi Juvenon and many other prominent and upcoming Northwest artists will be on display. Some of the paintings on display are on loan from private collections, and the Mark Tobey tempera titled "Intertwined" has previously hung in the Louve and in the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts. It's a great opportunity to spend the day, shop, and have lunch or dinner at the many wonderful shops and restaurants in downtown Renton, and see some amazing works of art. For a \$25 registration fee, an artist will display art on the sidewalk in front of or inside your business, drawing extra attention to your business. For more information contact Jennifer Davis-Hayes at 425-430-6589.



CITY HALL PHONE NUMBERS

Information Desk	430-6400
Economic Development	430-6575
Fire Prevention	430-7000
Business Watch	430-7520
Block Watch	430-7521
Human Services	430-6650
City Clerk	430-6510
Utility Systems	430-7234
Police Department	430-7500
Code Enforcement	430-7269